



The **LATINAMERICANIST**

University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies | Volume 50, Number 2 | Fall 2019



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DIRECTOR'S Corner



I am honored to be the new director of the Center for Latin American Studies and happy to be back at UF after 36 years of wandering around the

world. I started my academic career at the Center, and as an undergraduate obtained a certificate in Latin American Studies. One of my priorities as the new director would be to increase our commitment to undergraduate education because I want young people to have the opportunity that I had learning and working with fascinating faculty.

Our Center is unique because we have people from the humanities and the natural and social sciences, working together on pressing issues like deforestation and the relationships between humans, nature and development, among other topics. Under my predecessors, the Center became one of the best in the nation and the world. The Center has 24 faculty members and almost 200 affiliates through the university. Our library collection is one of the best in the world. We offer two MA programs, three graduate certificates, and an undergraduate certificate and minor. Since 1962, the Center has been awarded Title VI federal funds and our endowment has been growing.

Progress has also been made to increase the internationalization of our faculty and student body, but we have the

challenge to bring more students and faculty from underrepresented groups in Latin America and the United States. We have strong language programs in Spanish, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole, and we should teach again indigenous languages like Kiwchua, Aymara or Guaraní.

Our faculty provides insightful commentaries on current environmental, political and cultural events at both a national and international level. We have the expertise to lead public opinion on issues in Latin America and about Latina populations in the United States. Professors Rebecca Hanson and Carlos Suárez Carrasquillo were interviewed about Venezuela and the June 2019 protests in Puerto Rico respectively. Professors Emilio Bruna and Robert Walker were interviewed and published opinion pieces on the Amazon fires. Whereas Professor Joel Correia provided insightful commentary on the deforestation occurring in the Gran Chaco. We have ongoing colloquiums on Tropical Conservation and Development, and we had our first "conversatorio" focusing on the Bolivian crisis. We will continue to have conversations on current events and will organize international conferences and workshops to put the Center at the vanguard of academic research and diffusion.

We live under uncertain times and must be creative to obtain endowments and donations from alumni and friends of the Center so we can recruit top students and faculty. As we continue to move forward, we will position our Center as the leading institution that studies global issues from Latin American perspectives.

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Being on Earth: Territorios, Soundscapes, Biocultural Diversity, and Relationships

The UF Center for Latin American Studies is happy to announce our 69th Annual Conference designed to cultivate conversations across boundaries—disciplinary and otherwise—about what it means to be on Earth in an era of radical social-ecological change. The conference will take place March 20-22, 2020.

Participants are invited to share research and experiences applying ecology, linguistics, ethnography, ethnomusicology, governance, law, geography and other approaches to dimensions of being on earth: territorios, soundscapes, biocultural diversity, and relationships.

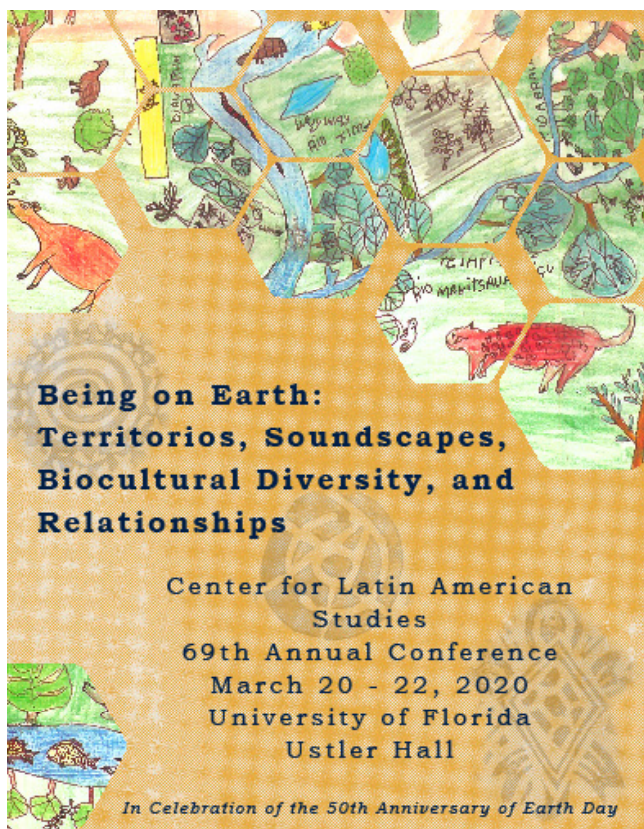
Complementing LASA 2020 *América Ladina*:

Vinculando Mundos y Saberes, Tejiendo Esperanzas and building on our UF 2018 conference *Buen Vivir and Other Post-Development Pathways*, *Being*

on Earth works to foster solidarities among scholars, musicians, artists, activists, Indigenous, and African descendant peoples across the Americas.

Collective efforts to decolonize knowledge production will inform three days of scholarly presentations, experiential learning, and creative activities including music, dance, and visual arts. Spaces to debate and envision alternative paths for *Being on Earth* aim to spur new ways of thinking and acting.

Visit our website for more information and to register: www.latam.ufl.edu.



For Your Information: UF ACRONYMS

CWSGR Center for Women's Studies & Gender Research
DCP College of Design, Construction & Planning
FBLI Florida-Brazil Linkage Institute
FLMNH Florida Museum of Natural History
FRE Food and Resource Economics
Poli Sci Political Science
LABE Latin American Business Environment
LAC Latin American Collection (UF Libraries)
LAS Latin American Studies

MALAS MA in Latin American Studies
MDP Master of Sustainable Development Practice
SAAH School of Art and Art History
SFRC School of Forest Resources and Conservation
SPS Spanish & Portuguese Studies
TCD Tropical Conservation and Development
UFIC UF International Center
URP Urban & Regional Planning
WEC Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Brazil: Fighting Land Inequality Through Rural Mobilization

Contributed by Dr. Rosana Resende (LAS)

As a nation of continental proportions with a relatively low population density, it may come as a surprise that Brazil holds the dubious distinction of having one of the world's worst rates of land inequality in the world: 45% of the land is owned by an estimated 1% of the population. This is even more surprising when considering that both the 1988 Constitution and federal law (Statute 8.634) guarantee the right to land and promise agrarian reform. In order to explore this apparent contradiction and learn in-depth about the efforts of rural populations in Southern Brazil to claim this right to land, the Center was able to host a weeklong visit by anthropologist Dr. Antonio de la Peña from Universidade de Integração Latino-Americana (UNILA--Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil).

Thanks to the support from a U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant, Dr. de la Peña was able to teach a module in Dr. Rosana Resende's Peoples of Brazil course exploring the Landless Workers Movement (Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra—MST), widely considered one of the largest and most successful social movements in Latin America. In preparation for this, students began reading Wendy Wolford's ethnography of the MST *This Land is Ours Now*. Dr. de la Peña then shared with the class his own experience of how the MST has operated in Paraná state in recent years. Students also learned about identity-based social movements and evolving theoretical understandings about social movements. Finally, we held a lively discussion on the future of the MST now that Brazil's current president, Jair

Bolsonaro, has proposed designating the movement as a terrorist organization.

In addition to his weeklong engagement with students in this course, as a Gator grad (Ph.D. 2008, Anthropology with LAS graduate certificate), Dr. de la Peña was eager to share his time and knowledge with others at UF. He met with faculty and graduate students interested in his work and also presented

a public lecture on another type of rural mobilization, faxinais. Faxinais are rural communities in the state of Paraná recognized by state law as "traditional people". His lecture, *Communities of Faxinais: Identity, Recognition and Territorial Disputes in Rural Paraná*, focused on his own research in faxinais, which are characterized by a communal use of land among other cultural traits and today they mobilize in ways to fight the increasing

encroachment of agroindustrial production and urban expansion. Under these circumstances, Faxinalenses have successfully organized in the last 20 years to vindicate the protection of their lands and ways of living. The presentation highlighted how intricately economic and social survival of these communities are linked and how the process of identity reemergence must contend with both state and civil society actors in order to be successful.

Dr. de la Peña's visit served as a powerful reminder that Center alumni are not only a part of our past but also our present and future. Thank you!



Verano Intenso: A Summer of Political Discontent and Activism in Puerto Rico

Contributed by Carlos A. Suárez Carrasquillo, MALAS Director (LAS/Poli.Sci.)

Three months after Governor Ricardo Rosselló made public his intention of stepping down from office at the stroke of midnight, the UF Center for Latin American Studies hosted the conference *Verano Intenso: A Summer of Political Discontent and Activism in Puerto Rico*.

The one-day conference held on October 25, 2019, brought together journalists, activists, and community members who took part in the events to share experiences and discuss potential ramifications. Puerto Rico was discussed as an example of a successful political mobilization, a relatively pacific one that can give significant lessons for the U.S. and other countries.

The conference had widespread campus support from a host of units: UF Smathers Libraries; Department of Political Science; Frederick G. Levin College of Law; Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies; Samuel Proctor Oral History Project; Bob Graham Center for Public Service; College of Journalism and Communications; UF International Center; UF Chief Diversity Officer; Center for Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Research; Multicultural and Diversity Affairs. The event also had the support of the Center for Latin American Studies at Stanford University.

The conference provided a forum for students and other members of the UF community and nearby areas to analyze how people in unequal relations of power,

and from different backgrounds, are able to organize themselves across political parties to oust corruption and a misogynist, homophobic, racist, and classist government. Three panels were assembled *The Chat and the Aftermath: Documenting Ricky Renuncia, Mobilizing the Puerto Rican Population and the Diaspora, Rethinking Puerto Rican Political and Social Movements*.

Journalists and academics were able to offer an account of the events that led to this popular uprising. Touching on issues of gender, class and mobilization, activists discussed in great detail the efforts that they undertook from their vantage point. At the end of the conference, academics were able to discuss the constitutional ramification of the power vacuum that ensued with the governor's resignation, the potential effects of the mobilization on the 2020 elections in Puerto Rico, and reviewed the possibilities that this social mobilization will have for the future of Puerto Rican politics.

The conference is part of the UF Center for Latin American Studies diversity initiatives by helping promote Puerto Rican studies and supporting a wide range of perspectives across disciplines and professional schools. Members of the Puerto Rican diaspora, friends of Puerto Rico, academics, and community participants found a productive space to share and debate ideas.



Conservation and Development Forum 2019

Burning Forests in Bolivia, Brazil, and Paraguay: Causes, Responses and the Future

Contributed by Angelica Garcia, TCD Student Group President & Bette Loiselle, TCD Director (LAS/WEC)

The Amazon forests have been burning at a record rate this year threatening biodiversity, ecological services, and the livelihoods of many people that rely on these forests. Protests within various Amazonian countries and attention and concern internationally have led to conflict over the drivers of these fires and the efforts of governments to curtail them and face the underlying issues. On October 25, 2019, the Tropical Conservation and Development student group (TCDsg) organized a special Conservation and Development Forum (CDF) entitled: *Burning Forests in Bolivia, Brazil, and Paraguay: Causes, Responses and the Future*. The goal was to bring attention to these issues, learn from partners experiencing the fires firsthand in the field and to promote dialogue to understand the efforts and challenges to solving the immediate crisis. The TCD and MDP programs co-sponsored this forum which featured speakers reporting on the fires occurring in the Amazon of Brazil, the Chiquitano Forest in Bolivia and the Chaco Forest in Paraguay.

The CDF was organized into two sessions. The first session included presentations that set the stage for understanding what conditions have led to the vulnerability of fire in Amazon rainforests; followed by reports from the field that characterized the situation in Bolivia, Paraguay, and Brazil. These included where fires were occurring, how they were being monitored, responses from civil society and government, and efforts to curtail the fires. The speakers were:

- Dr. John Terborgh: *"Burning the Unburnable: Why is the Amazon Forest Burning Now?"*
- On behalf of Roberto Vides (FCBC-Bolivia), Andy Noss: *"Burning Forests in Bolivia."*
- Oscar Rodas (WWF-Paraguay): *"Forest Fires in Paraguay."*
- Carlos Souza Jr. (Imazon-Brazil): *"Challenges and Opportunities to Control Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon."*

The second session featured practitioners and students from UF in a panel discussion, moderated by Dr. Stephen Perz (Sociology and Criminology & Law). The

panelists were Verónica Villaseñor (MALAS Alumna and practitioner / Bolivia), Juliana Santiago (MALAS student / Brazil) and Susana Ruiz Diaz (SFRC Master's student / Paraguay). The panelists responded to the presentations from the field and provided their own insights and perspectives of the fires, addressing possible paths forward to find solutions to deal with the drivers leading to deforestation and illegally set fires. Dr. Perz concluded with remarks and take-home messages from the CDF: the recognition that the current fires in the Amazon are unprecedented and caused in many cases by illegal efforts to clear forests for agricultural uses. Remote-sensing tools and reports on the ground have quantified the extent of the fires in real-time. Governmental responses have been varied and dynamic and have led to a strong civil society response demanding action in many regions of the Amazon.

More than 50 participants, many students and faculty from Amazonian countries, contributed to a very enriching experience through their insightful questions and thoughtful comments. We thank all those who attended, especially our speakers and panelists, for their excellent presentations and willingness to share their experiences and knowledge with the TCD community.



From right to left: Panel Discussion, moderated by Dr. Stephen Perz (Sociology and Criminology & Law) and the panelists Susana Ruiz Diaz (SFRC Master's student / Paraguay), Verónica Villaseñor (MALAS Alumna and practitioner / Bolivia) and Juliana Santiago (MALAS student / Brazil).

Living with a Dying Lake: Climate Change Politics and the Problem of Overdetermination, Lake Poopo, Bolivia

Contributed by Igor Vianna Sousa, MALAS Student

Dr. Tom Perreault, Geography Professor at the University of Syracuse, delivered a talk regarding the drought of Lake Poopo, Bolivia's second-largest lake. The talk, organized by Dr. Joel Correia (LAS) and sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies, is part of a series of conversations that fit into the LAS Indigenous Studies Specialization Speaker Series.

Dr. Perreault has extensive experience with the different natural resource issues in Bolivia. He began his work in the region in 2002, primarily with the use of water in Cochabamba and then working with mining and natural gas. The Lake Poopo drought constitutes his latest research. According to Dr. Perreault, the topic appeared to him almost by accident as he originally did not know the lake was undergoing a prolonged drought. However, the drought of Lake Poopo echoed internationally through the media.



“One of the things I was interested in doing was understanding part of the causes and ramifications

[of the drought],” said Dr. Perreault, “and partly the ways we think about the discourse of climate change and the political work within Latin America and elsewhere.” According to Dr. Perreault, the lake drought is directly related to ongoing climate change and exacerbated by other factors. He explained that historically, the lake has a natural process of previous droughts. The loss of Lake Poopo also contributed to the loss of one of the oldest Indigenous peoples of the region, the Urus-Muratos. Historically marginalized and living on the outskirts of Lake Poopo, the main source of sustenance for the Urus-Muratos was fishing.

There is no single factor responsible for the drought of Lake Poopo. However, other issues that contributed to the drought include intense agricultural production, mining and rising temperatures. Nonetheless, according to Dr. Perreault, Oruro Governor Victor Vasquez and then President Evo Morales named climate change as the sole factor responsible for the drought. In doing so, they blamed foreign nations that primarily contribute to climate change for the death of Lake Poopo. Dr. Perreault points out that this is a strategy to safeguard mining policies, which play a major role in the Bolivian economy and exacerbate lake droughts.

WELCOME NEW AFFILIATE FACULTY!

Donald Behringer, School of Forest Resource & Conservation

Fernanda Bretones Lane, Department of History

Derek Burdette, School of Art and Art History

Daniel Contreras, Anthropology

Elizabeth Garcia, Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research

Juan Hincapie-Castillo, Pharmacy

Lisa Iglesias, School of Art and Art History

Andrew Janusz, Political Science

Philip Janzen, Department of History

Mildred Maldonado-Molina, Department of Health Outcomes & Biomedical Informatics

Maira Reimão, Food and Resource Economics

Juliana Restrepo Sanin, Political Science

Jose Ruiz-Resto, School of Music

Paola Uparela, Spanish and Portuguese

Right-Wing Populist Parties and Border Issues, Toward a Global Perspective

Contributed by Igor Vianna Sousa, MALAS Student

This semester, a group of diverse University of Florida students and faculty members attended Dr. Oscar Mazzoleni's lecture, *Right-wing Populist Parties and Border Issues, Toward a Global Perspective*. The event was co-sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies, the Center for European Studies, and the Department of Political Science.

Dr. Oscar Mazzoleni is a professor of political science at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, and is currently a visiting scholar at Columbia University, NYC. His

research has been published in several peer-reviewed journals such as *Perspectives on European Politics and Society*, *Revue française de science politique*, *Government and Opposition*, *Party Politics*, *Swiss Political*

Science Review, *Comparative European Politics*, *Contemporary Italian Politics and Populism* among others.

Dr. Carlos de la Torre, LAS Director, delivered the introductory remarks. The lecture focused on border issues in right-wing populist strategies. According to Dr. Mazzoleni, "populism is a growing industry in political and social science. Many scholars consider that from a conceptual and theoretical point of view, almost all is done in populist studies. However, populism is a widespread, multifaceted, polymorphous, cross-national, and cross-continental phenomenon arising in current democracies and a globalized world. Therefore, new frames of analyses might be useful and necessary."

Dr. Mazzoleni touched on the current notion of borders in the globalized world to highlight how right-wing populism relates to the notion of borders. He talked about three different and complementary perspectives on the subject. The border as a logic, an issue, and an opportunity. "Populism is a border making discourse," he said.

He touched on various examples across the globe, from President Trump and the border wall with Mexico; to President Bolsonaro in Brazil and the

sovereignty discourse over the Amazon; to the Brexit campaign in the United Kingdom which claimed a need to take back control of their borders against immigrants; to East Europe and the border conflict with Hungary and Siberia. Dr.

Mazzoleni analyzed the discourses behind these examples.

"The notion of borders is crucial for understanding contemporary populism as a multi-faceted phenomenon," he said. "This linkage can be interpreted in different ways; border making can be seen as an intrinsic logic of populism, a border can embody specific issue; borders shaped by global trends might create political opportunities for successful populist actors."

Dr. Mazzoleni's full lecture can be viewed in the Center for Latin American Studies' YouTube channel.



Dr. Margarita López Maya named Bacardi Family Eminent Scholar

Contributed by Patricia Alba (LAS)

The UF Center for Latin American Studies is proud to name Dr. Margarita López Maya as the 2020 Bacardi Family Eminent Scholar. Dr. López Maya is a historian and the foremost authority on the Bolivarian Revolution. She is an emeritus professor of the Center for Development Studies (CENDES) of the Universidad Central de Venezuela and a member of the Center of Political Studies of the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello. Dr. López Maya was director of the *Revista Venezolana de Economía y Ciencias Sociales* and was on the Board of the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO) between 2006 and 2009.



Dr. López Maya's research delves into the contemporary socio-historical and sociopolitical processes of Latin America, particularly in Venezuela. Some of her prominent publications include *Venezuela: Del viernes negro al referendo revocatorio [Venezuela: From Black Friday to the Presidential Recall]* (Grupo Alfa, 2005), *Democracia participativa en Venezuela (1999-2010): Orígenes, leyes, percepciones y desafíos [Participative Democracy in Venezuela (1999-2010): Origins, Laws, Perceptions and Challenges]* (Centro Gumilla, 2011), and *El ocaso del chavismo. Venezuela 2005-2015 [The Sunset of Chavism. Venezuela 2005-2015]* (Caracas, Grupo Alfa, 2016).

Her work has earned Dr. López Maya multiple fellowships, including being named a visiting fellow by

the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, a senior fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholar; and the Andrés Bello Fellowship St. Anthony's College, Oxford. She has taught courses at Columbia University, the University of Oxford, and the University of Princeton, among others.

In the spring of 2020, Dr. López Maya will teach a seminar entitled *Democracy in Latin America: Representative, Participative or Populist?* As part of the seminar, students will study and analyze theories and experiences on participatory and populist democracy in recent sociopolitical processes of Latin America.

The Center for Latin American Studies will also hold a conference to honor the work of Dr. López Maya entitled *What Went Wrong with the Populist Left in Latin America?* Dr. López Maya will deliver the keynote speech.



The Bacardi Family Eminent Scholar Chair in Latin American Studies was established in 1991 with a gift from Bacardi Imports and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The Bacardi endowment enables the Center to invite distinguished scholars and public figures to teach, lecture, mentor students and carry out research at the University of Florida. Since 1992, 17 individuals have held the chair with expertise in diverse fields, such as economics, politics, tropical conservation, history, dance, and literature.

Fall 2019: Center Faculty and Staff Awards

This semester, Center faculty and staff were recognized by the University of Florida for their research, hard work, and dedication to their field. Join us in congratulating the below faculty and staff members!



Dr. Simone Athayde was named a 2019-2020 Global Fellow by the UF International Center. The fellowship is part of the Global Climate Fellows Program (GCFP) at the UF Florida Climate Institute (FCI). The fellowship will support

Dr. Athayde's research to develop the international project Local Indicators of Climate Change (LICCI) amongst indigenous peoples in the Brazilian Amazon. LICCI is a global, multi-site research project led by Dr. Victoria Reyes-Garcia (a UF and TCD alumna) from the Autonomous University of Barcelona and a team of over 80 students and researchers from all over the world, who will conduct comparative research across 40 sites carefully selected to represent diverse world biocultural regions.



Dr. Andrew Noss, MDP Coordinator was selected as the Staff International Educator of the Year by the UF International Center. The award honors the outstanding contributions of faculty and staff to the

internationalization of the University of Florida and the impact of those contributions on students, international partners, and university stakeholders. In his capacity as MDP Coordinator, Dr. Noss coordinates the recruitment, admissions, registration, orientation, and graduation processes. As one of Dr. Noss' principal responsibilities, he provides support to

MDP students as they work on their field practicums. During his time as MDP Coordinator, MDP students have carried out field practicums in 33 countries in Africa, Latin America and other regions of the world.



Dr. Mary Risner, Associate Director of Outreach and Business Programs was selected as the Senior Faculty International Educator of the Year by the UF International Center. Throughout her career, Dr. Risner has worked

with students, K-12 teachers, and post-secondary faculty to enhance the curriculum through global education. Most recently, Dr. Risner received the Provost's Creative Campus Initiative award to develop a project called Collaborating Across Undersea Cables: Creating a Collaborative International Teaching Network (CITN). The project creates virtual exchange opportunities for UF faculty and students and is an initiative between the Center for Latin American Studies and the UF International Center.



Dr. Robert Walker was the recipients of the Research Promotion Initiative Award by the University of Florida's Provost Office for his article *Avoiding Amazonian Catastrophes: Prospects for Conservation in the 21st Century*. The Research Promotion Initiative was launched by Provost Joe Glover

to help elevate the reputation of the University of Florida by creating national and international interest in faculty research through coverage in top-tier news media outlets. In his article, Dr. Walker discusses a new threat that confronts the Amazon in the form of a massive infrastructure program. Turn to page 11 to learn more about Dr. Walker's article.

2019 Charles Wood Thesis Award

The 2019 Charles Wood Thesis Award committee received an exceptionally large number of high-quality nominations. Among these, a panel of judges recognized the following work.

Winner: James Everett, *Ausencia sentimental: Colombo-Venezuelan affect, diaspora, and music in Campo de la Cruz, Colombia*. Thesis Committee: Tanya Saunders (LAS), Welton Tremura (LAS/College of the Arts), Augusto Soledade (College of the Arts), Lenny Ureña Valerio (LAS).

Avoiding Amazonian Catastrophes: Prospects for Conservation in the 21st Century

Contributed by Patricia Alba (LAS)

Known for its incredible biodiversity, the Amazon is the world's largest tropical rainforest and home to a large indigenous population. While the consequences of Amazonian deforestation have been studied for years, recent fires and political inaction have renewed concerns that the Amazon rainforest could reach its "tipping point" in the near future.

The 'tipping point' is a level of deforestation beyond which the rainforest disappears, with a fire-prone savanna taking its place. From an economic standpoint, such a catastrophic change would cause a domino effect, reducing rainfall and atmospheric moisture, thereby harming agriculture throughout South America, and perhaps even in the Mississippi Valley of the United States. Researchers put the tipping point at roughly 40%, although with global warming it could dip as low as 20-25%. This is alarming, given nearly 20% has already disappeared.

Research conducted by Dr. Robert Walker (LAS/Geography), delineates new threats to the Amazon, and addresses how Amazonia's indigenous peoples represent an important conservation force when defending their territories. Funding for the research was provided by the National Science Foundation and the University of Florida.

"This article brings to light a mounting threat to the Amazon in the form of a massive infrastructure program being advanced by all the South American nations called the Initiative for the Integration of the Regional Infrastructure of South America, or IIRSA," said Dr. Walker. "It demonstrates that if decisive action is not taken to slow the pace of development, the rainforest as we know it will disappear, doing irrevocable damage to global biodiversity, and harming the agricultural economy of South America." In the article, Dr. Walker uses a computer model and agricultural projections of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to show that by 2050, deforestation could reach 43% of the Brazilian portion of the Amazon basin. This is more than needed to spark an environmental catastrophe.



Mundurucu Warriors | Photo by Maira Irigaray

In the past, Brazil's environmental policies have successfully reduced deforestation. However, in today's political climate, indigenous defense of ancestral homelands is proving to be highly effective at forest conservation. Of special note is the Mundurucu people who inhabit the Tapajós River Valley in Brazil, one of the Amazon River's largest tributaries. The Mundurucu recently managed to thwart development plans that would have transformed the Tapajós River into the "Mississippi" of Brazil, thereby conserving the ecology in a watershed covering 7% of the Amazon basin. This success, however, comes at a cost, namely the loss of job opportunities and economic growth.

The article concludes by arguing that the implementation of IIRSA is proceeding in the dark, and that the South American governments are ignoring its potential impact on the forest. Further research is needed to fully reveal all the ecological and economic consequences of a tipping point catastrophe for the South American nations and beyond. This requires a slow-down in the pace of project development to undertake a full assessment.

Avoiding Amazonian Catastrophes: Prospects for Conservation in the 21st Century is published in *One Earth* journal and can be read here: [https://www.cell.com/one-earth/fulltext/S2590-3322\(19\)30081-8](https://www.cell.com/one-earth/fulltext/S2590-3322(19)30081-8).

Frontiers of Environmental Justice: A Preliminary Field Research Trip in the South American Gran Chaco

Contributed by Dr. Joel E. Correia (LAS)

How are rapid land-use changes, large-scale infrastructure projects, and emergent political economic relations reshaping Indigenous territorial governance, environmental justice, and conservation practice in the Gran Chaco? My recent preliminary research trip sought to find out.

For those not familiar with the region, the Gran Chaco is Latin America's second-largest forest ecosystem, spanning more than 1.3 million km². Referred to by colonists as a “green hell,” the Gran Chaco has long been at the edge of the states it crosses—Bolivia, Paraguay, and Argentina (with a finger that reaches into Brazil). A frontier region, the exercise of political authority here is fraught, defined by shifting regimes of speculation, resource rule, settler colonialism, and extractivist territorialities that have profound implications on both Indigenous rights and environmental change. International demands for agricultural commodities and increasingly for petroleum and charcoal are driving profound changes across the Gran Chaco, which has been a global deforestation hotspot since the mid-2000s (see www.globalforestwatch.org for a helpful visualization).



I have been working on issues of Indigenous territorial struggles, human rights, and environmental justice in the Paraguayan Chaco since 2013. With generous funding from the University of Florida International Center Global Fellows Program I began a new initiative that investigates frontiers of environmental justice across the Gran Chaco. In June and July 2019, I traveled to Paraguay, Bolivia, and Argentina to

meet with longstanding partners, begin forging new relationships with potential collaborators, and scope possible field sites. During the trip, colleagues and I – including Indigenous collaborators, human rights lawyers, biologists, and a fellow geographer – drove over 7,000 kilometers of dusty roads and highways to scope sites and conduct preliminary research. During the trip, I met with representatives from Enxet, Sanapaná, Ayoreo, Manjui, Guaraní, and Wichi Indigenous communities, academics, and over 30 non-governmental organizations. It was also a pleasure to meet with numerous Tropical Conservation and Development alumni and “Global Gators” in each country, particularly Dr. Mauricio Nuñez-Reguerio and Christina Nuñez-Godoy in Salta, Argentina and Masters in Sustainable Development Practice Program Coordinator Dr. Andy Noss in Bolivia.

While still in its exploratory phase, the crux of *Frontiers of Environmental Justice* centers on understanding how different regimes of social-environmental governance, modalities of extractivism, and political authority impact Indigenous environmental justice. In Paraguay, we used open-access mapping technologies and drones alongside ethnographic methods to identify preliminary field research sites and document: 1) the incipient spread of new drought-resistant soybean varieties and 2) how major highway projects associated with IIRSA/COSIPLAN are threatening Indigenous rights. The Bolivia and Argentina legs of the trip focused on conversations with possible collaborators and included visits to potential field research sites in both the Chaco and Chiquitania.

I will return to Paraguay, Bolivia, and Argentina multiple times in spring and summer 2020 to follow-up with partners and begin the next phase of field research. In the meantime, I look forward to meeting with UF students and faculty interested in discussing the possibility of collaborating on research in the Gran Chaco.

Governance and Infrastructure in the Amazon

Contributed by Andrea B. Chavez (LAS/TCD)

The TCD project "Governance and Infrastructure in the Amazon" (GIA) is an initiative aiming to create, strengthen and expand a Community of Practice (CoP) for learning and reflection on the use of tools and strategies by conservation and development practitioners in the Amazon.

This collective learning process involves several key stakeholders from the Pan-Amazon (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, and Peru) by facilitating networking, training, and research to improve social-environmental governance and reduce threats from infrastructure projects, especially dams, roads, and waterways. Four mosaics were chosen as focal for containing protected areas and indigenous territories, which are the Colombian Amazonia (Colombia), Loreto (Peru), Alto Madera (Bolivia/Brazil), and South Amazonas/North of Rondônia (Brazil).

Four workshops were held between May and September 2019 to promote within and cross-mosaic learning and collaborative activities. A total of 110 individuals from 70 organizations participated, and the activities held during the workshops helped identify several emergent themes from each mosaic as well as tools and strategies to tackle infrastructure projects.

The important topics

Each mosaic has a distinct dynamic, and the problems surrounding infrastructure varied. At Loreto, the group pointed to the incorporation of technical analysis on decision-making and adaptation and effectiveness of planning on development projects as their main issues. In the Brazilian mosaic (Sul do Amazonas/Norte de Rondônia), the concerns were focused on paths for integrated management of conservation areas and indigenous lands, consolidation of research partnerships, and the current changes in laws for environmental licensing and its consequences on nature and for traditional and indigenous populations.

In the Colombian Amazon mosaic, interests were directed to capacity building (for communities and institutions) in the current Infrastructure Regulatory Framework, the generation of agreements to implement guidelines of green infrastructure. In the Alto Madeira mosaic, the complexity stems from the shared responsibility between Brazil and Bolivia. A binational governance framework for a transboundary river is yet to be developed. In this context, planning for fisheries management and an assessment of the impacts of mining and hydroelectric projects on the aquatic systems is urgently necessary.



Tools and strategies to reach the next level

Infrastructure projects pose different types of threats in each mosaic. During the workshops, the community signaled strategies and tools to handle the challenges of infrastructure. The approach stems from:

1. Empowerment and support of social movements to influence decision-making
2. Use citizen science as a mechanism for local groups to monitor infrastructure impacts
3. Legal tools to contest infrastructure licensing process
4. Broad communication of technical information to lead to governance decisions based on objective analysis of costs, benefits, and impacts
5. Integrated territorial management of conservation areas and indigenous lands
6. Stakeholder analysis to facilitate engagement with multiple actors
7. Social network analysis to examine collaboration patterns

Future steps

In the next year, the GIA project will evaluate the effectiveness of a subset of tools and strategies being employed by partners to improve governance and reduce threats. In addition, we will continue our efforts to strengthen (or build) the CoP via webinars on key topics, virtual and on-line discussions to foster learning and exchange among our partners.

Summer Teacher Exchange Program

Contributed by Anna Rodell (COE Doctoral Student/MALAS 2019)

Since 2008, the Center's Outreach Office has coordinated a Summer Teacher Institute to help Florida teachers develop global competence through cultural and pedagogical training in a Latin American country or through a hands-on workshop in Gainesville. This year, Outreach partnered with Volusia Sister Cities, the Instituto Campechano, and Colegio Xail to launch a new one-to-one exchange program. The Teacher Exchange connects educators in Mexico and the United States to share knowledge and perspectives on educational systems and teaching approaches. In June, Alachua County teachers Lynn Hazen and Carolina Currea and Volusia County teacher Chris Gellermann traveled to Campeche, Mexico for an immersion experience. They interacted with students and teachers at K-12 and post-secondary institutions and participated in cultural excursions. In October, two teachers from Campeche were hosted in Florida by the teachers they partnered with over the summer. In addition to visiting the host teachers' schools in Alachua and Volusia Counties, the Campeche teachers enjoyed social events in Gainesville and New Smyrna Beach, as well as a one-day excursion to the Canaveral Space Center.



Global Career & Technical Education (CTE): Why Global?

Contributed by Andrew Gallup, MALAS Student

In today's increasingly interconnected world, U.S. students must be prepared to navigate the complex global society in which they live. Whether home or abroad, graduates will need intercultural skills to collaborate with diverse peoples and approach problems with a global mindset.

In June 2019, Dr. Mary Risner led the 2-day *Preparing Students for the Global Workplace* workshop in New Smyrna Beach. The event was a collaboration with LAS Outreach, the FIU Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER), Volusia Sister Cities, and Volusia County Schools. It brought

together K-16 educators of diverse disciplines, community and industry leaders to discuss how to better prepare students for life-long learning and success in their professional and personal lives. Sample presentations included *Connecting your Students to the World Through Virtual Exchange*, *Globalizing STEM Curriculum through Children's Literature*, and *How to Connect Schools to Business and Community*. Participants also learned about various global career and educational opportunities in agriculture, healthcare, and manufacturing.

In furthering our efforts to promote LAS and global in career and technical education (CTE), the Center's Outreach office participated in the Florida CTE Conference (FACTE) in Orlando. Dr. Risner and Marketing teacher Matt Musgrove staffed a booth of resources and presented on *Preparing Students for the Global Workplace*. They shared model activities from practicing CTE educators on how teachers can infuse LAS and global content into the classroom and raise awareness of the global industry presence in our state. The Center's Office of Outreach continues to seek collaborators in Florida schools, businesses, and communities to connect and promote the value of global awareness in today's society and workplace.



SUMMER & FALL 19 GRADUATIONS

Undergraduate LAS Minors & Certificates

Gian Simone (LAS/Poli Sci)

Graduate LAS Certificates

Andreina Fernandez (Women's Studies)

Daniela Lizano (MDP)

Dylan Rigsby (MDP)

MALAS Degrees

Ana Luiza Avila Peterlini

Specialization: TCD

Advisor: Bob Buschbacher (LAS/TCD)

Thesis: Environmental Compensation of Legal Reserve: An Analysis of the Difficulties, Challenges and Opportunities to Implement this Mechanism in the State of Mato Grosso-Brazil

Samora Bazil

Specialization: Caribbean Studies

Advisor: Carlos Suárez Carrasquillo (LAS/Poli Sci)

Thesis: Intercountry Adoption in Haiti: A Review

MDP Degrees

Jesse Cosme

Specializations: LAS, TCD

Advisor: Nicholas Vargas (LAS / Sociology, Criminology, & Law)

Capstone Field Practicum: Foreign in a Domestic Sense: Puerto Rican

Transnational Community Social Movement Collaboration After Disaster

Nicholas Diaz

Specializations: Public Health, African Studies, TCD

Advisor: Sarah McKune (Environmental and Global Health / African Studies)

Capstone Field Practicum: Assessing Nutritional Health Behaviors and Attitudes in Karamoja, Uganda

Emma Lannon

Specializations: African Studies, TCD

Advisor: Gregory MacDonald (Agronomy)

Capstone Field Practicum: Assessing the Expanding Role of Female Entrepreneurship in Ecotourism in Arusha, Tanzania

Daniela Lizano

Specializations: LAS, TCD

Advisor: Susan Paulson (LAS)

Capstone Field Practicum: How are Indigenous Quality of Life Plans Influencing Conservation and Rural Development in the Ampiyacu-Apayacu River Basin of Peruvian Amazon?

Dylan Rigsby

Specializations: LAS, TCD

Advisor: Catherine Tucker (LAS/ Anthropology)

Capstone Field Practicum: Coffee Talks: Climate Change, Communication and Local Coping Strategies

Mary Vasilevsky

Specializations: Environmental Education and Communication, TCD

Advisor: Sebastian Galindo (Agricultural Education and Communication)

Capstone Field Practicum: Water and Peace: Analyzing Organizational Risks for an Environmental Peacebuilding NGO Operating in Israel, Palestine, and Jordan

Maria Waked

Specializations: Health and Spirituality, TCD

Advisor: Ana Puig (Human Development and Organizational Studies in Education)

Capstone Field Practicum: Pedagogical Trekking as a Tool for Sustainable Tourism in Tilcara, Argentina

Graduate Conservation and Development Certificate

Claudia Baudoin Farah, PhD (SNRE)

Roberta Mendonca De Carvalho, PhD (Geography)

Felipe Pinheiro, PhD (SNRE)

Jazmin Gonzales Tovar, PhD (Sociology and Criminology & Law)

Undergraduate Corner: Isabella Oliver

I am a senior planning to graduate in May 2020 with a Bachelor's in Political Science and International Studies with a focus on Latin America and the Caribbean; I'm also pursuing the Undergraduate Certificate in Latin American Studies. As a Venezuelan immigrant, both my academic journey and campus involvement have been guided by pride in my community and a deep desire to focus on human rights and social justice.

The Center for Latin American Studies has been instrumental in my education, with excellent faculty offering courses that help me deepen my understanding of issues of human rights, migration, and displacement. Thanks to this preparation, this summer I was able to intern with the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) working on the Venezuela and Border Security programs.

I have also been closely involved in campus activities that have been related to or even explicitly supported by the Center and

its mission. I currently work with the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program (SPOHP) and their Latina/o Diaspora in the Americas Program (LDAP). I also serve as the current president of the Hispanic Student Association (HSA) and was the Forum director for Hispanic Heritage Month (HHM) when Pitbull came to campus. Using my knowledge of the current issues affecting the Hispanic-Latinx community, I work to incorporate meaningful programming and resources for the organization to better serve students. I hope to continue to do this through a career in advocacy and human rights in the region.



FACULTY NEWS & PUBLICATIONS

Angelica Almeyda Zambrano (Tourism, Hospitality, and Events Management)

Publications: B. Lopez Gutierrez, A.M. Almeyda Zambrano, G. Mulder, C. Ols, R. Dirzo, et al. "Ecotourism: the 'human shield' for wildlife conservation in the Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica." *Journal of Ecotourism* (2019): <https://doi.org/10.1080/14724049.2019.1686006>. P.H.S. Brancalion, A. Niamir, E. Broadbent, R. Crouzeilles, F.S.M. Barros, A.M. Almeyda Zambrano, A. Baccini et al. "Global restoration opportunities in tropical rainforest landscapes." *Science Advances* 5, no. 7 (2019): eaav3223.

Eben Broadbent (LAS/SFRC)

Publications: C. Mere Roncal, E. Middendorf, A. Forsyth, A. Cáceres, J.G. Blake, A.M. Almeyda Zambrano, and E.N. Broadbent. "Assemblage structure and dynamics of terrestrial birds in the southwest Amazon: a camera trap case study." *Journal of Field Ornithology* 90, no. 3 (2019): 203-214. D.R.A. Almeida, E.N. Broadbent, A.M. Almeyda Zambrano, B.E. Wilkinson, M.E. Ferreira, R. Chazdon, P. Meli et al. "Monitoring the structure of forest restoration plantations with a drone-lidar system." *International Journal of Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation* 79 (2019): 192-198.

Emilio Bruna (LAS/WEC)

Publications: Fletcher, Jr., R. J., J. A. Sefair, C. Wang, C. Poli, E. M. Bruna, T. Smith, R. D. Holt, M. Barfield, A. J. Marx, M. A. Acevedo. 2019. "Toward a unified framework for connectivity that disentangles movement and mortality in space and time." *Ecology Letters* 22(10): 1680-1689 Brooks, M., M. R. Darrigo, P. Rubim, M. Uriarte, E. M. Bruna, B. Bolker. 2019. "Modeling patterns in annual reproductive rates." *Ecology*: 100(7): e02706. Costa, A. N., H. L. Vasconcelos, E. H. M. Vieira-Neto, and E. M. Bruna. 2019. "Adaptive foraging of leaf-cutter ants to spatiotemporal changes in resource availability in Neotropical savannas."

Ecological Entomology 44(2):227-238.

Robert Buschbacher (LAS/TCD)

Conference: Robert Buschbacher (LAS/TCD), Marianne Schmink (LAS/TCD), Angelica Almeyda (TCD), Pamela Montero (Tourism/Hospitality & Event Management) organized a side event, titled "Dialogo de Experiencias: Infraestructura y Gobernanza en Mosaicos de Áreas Naturales Protegidas y Territorios Indígenas en la Amazonia" at the III Latin American and Caribbean Congress on Protected Areas, in Lima, Peru in October 2019.

Kaira Cabañas (SAAH)

Presentations: Taught a series of master classes as part of an intensive seminar at the University of São Paulo (USP), Brazil's leading research university. Topics ranged from the intersections between modern art and psychiatry to forms of creative therapy today. The course program included visits to the storage of the Juquery Hospital art collection as well as a private art viewing in the conservation lab of the Museu de Arte de São Paulo. Cabañas received a CAPES Foundation grant from Brazil's Ministry of Education to teach graduate students at USP and use her research as a point of departure.

Maria Coady (School of Teaching and Learning)

Film: The film *Small Town Big Dreams* (13 minutes), produced by Maria Coady and Directed by UF Associate Professor Timothy Sorel, highlights one rural immigrant community and school's work with rural Latinx students in Florida. Please see the link here: <https://vimeo.com/343754579> The film was released to the public at the U.S. Department of Education, Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA).

Joel Correia (LAS)

Publication: "Arrested infrastructure: Roadwork, rights, and racialized

geographies." *Roadsides* 2, 14-24.

Carlos de La Torre (LAS)

Presentations: "The perils of populist succession: Ecuador in comparative perspective" Program in Latin American Studies, Princeton University, September 17, 2019. "Populism in power and as a regime" keynote speech delivered at the Conference Paths of Russia. Narodniks and Populists, Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences, Interdisciplinary Center for Social Science, September 27-28, 2019. "Populists mass meetings and performances of emotions in the Americas" delivered at the Conference Populism and Affect, University of Kentucky, November 8 and 9, 2019. "Global Populism: Histories, Trajectories, Problems and Challenges" keynote speech delivered at the Conference The Far Right Today, Amsterdam center for European Studies, University of Amsterdam, December 12, 13, 2019. "El populismo: ¿un producto latinoamericano de exportación?", invited lecture at the Instituto de Iberoamérica, Universidad de Salamanca, December 16, 2019. **Publication:** "Populismos autocráticos mesiánicos na historia reciente das Américas." *Revista Ecosos* 22 (2) 2019, 34-65 https://revistaecosos.eco.ufrj.br/eco_pos/article/view/3/pdf.

Carmen Diana Deere (LAS/FRE Emerita)

Presentations: Gave the opening keynote address, "Derechos de propiedad, riqueza de la mujer y el poder de negociación: desafíos de investigación" at the Latin American Conference of Economic History in Santiago in July 2019. She was a guest lecturer in the first Summer School on Feminist Economics, Javeriana University, Bogota. She presented "Avances y desafíos en estadísticas de género: jefatura de hogar, preferencias y propiedad de activos" at the International Meeting

of Gender Statistics, Aguascalientes, MX, in September, and as the closing keynote to the Seminar on Feminist Economics, Faculty of Economics, PUCE, Quito in November. She also gave the MDP Program Special Fall Lecture, University of California, Berkeley, on "Land to Tiller? The Gender Distribution of Land in Latin America."

Kitty Emery (FLMNH)

Publications: Rivera-Araya, Maria, Kitty F. Emery, M. Charlotte Arnauld, and Suzanne Pilaar Birch. 2019. "Stable Isotope Analysis of White-Tailed Deer Teeth as a Paleoenvironmental Proxy at the Maya Site of La Joyanca, Northwestern Peten, Guatemala." *Journal of Isotopes in Environmental and Health Studies* 55(4): 344-365. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10256016.2019.1636047>.

Joan Flocks (Center for Governmental Responsibility, Levin College of Law)

Publications: Mix J, Elon L, Mac V, Flocks J, Economos J, Tovar-Aguilar A, Hertzberg V, McCauley LA. 2019. "Physical Activity and Work Activities in Florida Agricultural Workers." *American Journal of Industrial Medicine* 62:1058-1067. Chicas R, Mix J, Mac V, Flocks J, Dickman NE, Hertzberg V, McCauley L. 2019. "Chronic Kidney Disease Among Workers: A Review of the Literature." *Workplace Health and Safety* 67:481-490.

Other: Flocks, J. "Prevention of Heat Stress among Farmworkers" (roundtable discussion moderator) Western Agriculture Safety & Health Conference, Seattle, WA, August 7-9, 2019.

Glenn Galloway (LAS/MDP)

Publications: Katila, P., Pierce Colfer, C.J., de Jong, W., Galloway, G. Pacheco, P. and Winkel, G. eds. *Sustainable Development Goals: Their Impacts on Forests and People*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019. 644 pp. <https://www.cambridge.org/9781108486996>. Wilsey, D., Galloway, G., Scharffenberger,

G., Reid, C., Brown, K., Miller, N., Snyder, K., Swatuk, L. 2019. "The Master of Development Practice (MDP): Reflections on an adaptive and collaborative program strategy to develop integrative leaders in sustainable development." In: K. Kremers, A.L. Leipens & A.M. York (Editors): *Developing Change Agents: Innovative Practices For Sustainability Leadership*. Minneapolis, Minnesota: ANGLES Press. <https://open.lib.umn.edu/changeagents/chapter/masters-of-development-practice/>

Rebecca Hanson (LAS/Sociology)

Publications: Hanson, Rebecca and Patricia Richards. 2019. *Harassed: Gender, Bodies, and Ethnographic Research*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. Hanson, Rebecca. 2019. "Gender & Urban Ethnography." *Research in Urban Sociology*, eds. Richard E. Ocejo and Ray Hutchison. Bingley, UK: Emerald Publishing. Hanson, Rebecca and Francisco Sánchez. 2019. "The Stalemate in Venezuela." *NACLA*, September 12. <https://nacla.org/news/2019/09/12/stalemate-venezuela>.

Other: Hanson, Rebecca and Patricia Richards. Interview by Kelly Underman. ASA Body & Embodiment Section, June 18. <http://sectionbodyembodiment.weebly.com/blog/an-interview-with-patricia-richards>.

Benjamin Hebblethwaite (Languages, Literatures and Cultures)

Publications: "Rastafari Resurgence in Reggae's Roots Revival Generation: Two Reggae Songs by Chronixx in Jamaican Patwa." *Delos* Vol. 34, No. 1, pp. 96-126. 2019. "Rap and the Islamic Lexical Field in Parisian French: A Study of Arabic Religious Language Contact with Vernacular French." *Le français dans les métropoles européennes*. Edited by Françoise Gadet, 167-184. Paris: Classiques Garnier.

Emily Hind (SPS)

Publications: *Dude Lit: Mexican Men Writing and Performing Competence, 1955-2012*. University of Arizona Press,

2019. <https://uapress.arizona.edu/book/dude-lit>.

Presentations: "Risking the Pedant Label to Question Academic Acceptance of Screen Violence" at the Association for the Study of the Arts in the Present conference at College Park, Maryland in October 2019. "Death in Mexican Children's Literature" at the Children's Literature Association conference at Indianapolis, Indiana in June 2019. "Good Grief and the Ecotest in Alberto Chimal's *La partida* (2015)" at the Latin American Studies Association conference at Boston, Massachusetts" in May 2019.

Bette Loiselle (LAS/TCD/WEC)

Publications: Montañó-Centellas, Flavia, Christy McCain, and Bette A. Loiselle. "Using functional and phylogenetic diversity to infer avian community assembly along elevational gradients". *Global Ecology and Biogeography* (23 October 2019). <https://doi.org/10.1111/geb.13021>. H.S. Rogers, N.G. Beckman, F. Hartig, J.S. Johnson, G. Pufal, K. Shea, D. Zurell, J.M. Bullock, R. S. Cantrell, B. Loiselle, L. Pejchar, O.H. Razafindratsima, M.E. Sandor, E.W. Schupp, W.C. Strickland, J. Zambrano. "The total dispersal kernel: a review and future directions". *AoB PLANTS* 11, Issue 5 (October 2019): plz042. <https://doi.org/10.1093/aobpla/plz042>.

Carmen Martinez Novo (LAS)

Presentation: Presented the paper "Turn to the Left, Neextractivism and the Decline of Indigenous Rights in Latin America" at the Ethnicity, Race and Indigenous Peoples Conference, Spokane, Washington September 11-14, 2019.

Other: Granted a Visiting Professorship at the Center for Intercultural and Indigenous Research, CIIR in Chile, to work with Chilean scholars on indigenous environmental struggles in the fall of 2020. Martínez Novo became an editor of the journal *America Latina Hoy*, Center for Latin American Studies, University of Salamanca, Spain.

Crystal Marull (SPS)

Award: Received the "The 2019 Online Teaching Award for Higher Education" – ACTFL/CALICO on November 23 in Washington, DC.

Presentations: "Advancing Quality and Excellence: Designing Language Programs for the Future," at the School of International Letters and Cultures, Arizona State University on August 28 in Tempe. "Leveraging Technology to Facilitate Authentic International Experiences" at UPCEA South Regional. Marull and colleagues presented the paper "Sociolinguistic Factors to Consider in Heritage Language Program Development" at the Hispanic Linguistics Symposium (HLS) in El Paso in October 2019.

Susan Milbrath (FLMNH)

Publication: "The Planets in Aztec Culture." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Planetary Science*, 2019 <https://oxfordre.com/planetaryscience/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190647926.001.0001/acrefore-9780190647926-e-54>.

Max Nickerson (FLMNH, WEC, SNRE)

Presentations: Nickerson, M, 2019. Salamanders and Four Fish. Science, Literature Reviews, and Perceptions (Abstract) Society for Freshwater Science. Salt Lake City, Utah 5/22/2019 Pitt, A.L., J.J. Tavano, and M.A. Nickerson. 2019. Long-Term Evaluation of a River Turtle Community Influenced by Habitat Degradation, Harvest, and Climate Change. (Abstract) 28th International Congress for Conservation Biology. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 23 July 2019. The importance of turtle populations to wetland restoration in the Upper Mississippi Embayment of the Mississippi Alluvial Valley. 2019. *Wetlands Ecology and Management*. December 2019, 27 (5-6) 683-692.

Susan Paulson (LAS)

Publications: Co-published with graduate student William Boose (MALAS) the article "Masculinities and Environment" in *CAB Reviews*. Paulson also published a "Review

of Degrowth, by Giorgos Kallis," in *Environmental Values*, and the chapter "La propuesta de decrecimiento en diálogo pluriversal con el buen vivir, la agroecología y el zapatismo," in *Cambio Ambiental*. Coordinadora, Anisley Morejón Ramos. La Habana: Instituto de Filosofía de Cuba. Paulson delivered a Keynote Lecture at the Canadian Society for Ecological Economics Conference Engaging Economies of Change on the topic "Socio-ecological systems through which humans and their worlds are produced, sustained, and adapted."

Charles A. Perrone (SPS)

Publications: "Insularity, Invention, and Interfaces: Brazilian Lyric and Contemporary Imperatives." In Jill S. Kuhnheim and Melanie Nicholson, eds. *Teaching Contemporary Latin American Poetries*. New York: MLA, 2019. 160-170. "Sobre Sobre o que, sobre o que sobrar," preface to *Ricardo Silvestrin Sobre o que*. São Paulo: Patuá, 2019. 15-17.

Mary Risner (LAS)

Presentation: Invited Keynote Speaker at Imperial College of London at the annual conference on "Languages for Specific Purposes in Higher Education."

Award: Recipient of the UF Senior Faculty International Educator Award.

Other: Invited to serve on the advisory board of a European Union-funded project entitled "Computer-Assisted Training and Platforms to Upskill LSP Teachers (CATAPULT)".

Marianne Schmink (LAS/TCD)

Presentation: Conference Paper Marianne Schmink and co-authors Jenny Smart, Isabel Siteo, Walter Bowen, Henoque Ribeiro Silva, Carvalho Carlos Ecole, and Lenita Haber presented the paper "Challenges and Opportunities of Trilateral Partnership to Promote Greater Local Ownership and Sustainability: the Experience of the USA, Brazil and Mozambique Food Security Project, 2011-2015" at "Knowledge for Sustainable Development: the Research-

Policy Nexus," Global Sustainable Development Network Conference, Bonn, Germany, 23-25 October 2019.

Lenny Ureña Valerio (LAS)

Publications: *Colonial Fantasies, Imperial Realities: Race Science and the Making of Polishness on the Fringes of the German Empire, 1840-1920* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2019). With María Dolores Lasso, "The Quito Project: Un proyecto de justicia social para niños de comunidades urbano-marginales," in *Esferas* (Serie Monográfica dela Universidad de San Francisco de Quito), March 2019.

Other: Invited to participate in the roundtable panel: "Colonialism and Transnational Histories of East Central Europe," Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, San Francisco, CA, November 23-26, 2019.

Nicholas Vargas (LAS/Sociology)

Presentation: Nicholas Vargas, Julio Villa-Palomino ('18 MALAS Alum), & Erika Davis ('19 MALAS Alum) published "Latinx Faculty Representation and Resource Allocation at Hispanic Serving Institutions" in the peer-reviewed journal *Race, Ethnicity, & Education*.

Presentation: Nicholas Vargas, Manoucheka Celeste (Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research/African American Studies Program), Margarita Vargas-Betancourt (LACC), Alexandra Cenatus (CHPS) & Yewande Addie (CJC) presented on a panel titled "How Does Blackness Travel Locally and Across the Globe" as part of the Black and Latinx Intersections group at the 10th Biennial Conference of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) on Wednesday, November 6.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Robert Maguire (MALAS 1975) retired in June 2017 from the faculty of the Elliott School of International Affairs. He was professor of the Practice of International Affairs in the International Development Studies graduate program and Director of the Latin American & Hemispheric Studies Program, the Haiti Initiative, and the Brazil Initiative. He is currently an Adjunct Professor and teaches a course entitled "Poverty Alleviation and Bottom Up Development." His edited volume *Who Owns Haiti? People, Power and Sovereignty*, was published by the University Press of Florida.

Antoni Castells-Talens (LAS 2004) after 13 year living in Mexico, Antoni joined the faculty of the Blanquerna School of Communication and International Relations-Universitat Ramon Llull, in Barcelona.

Eytan Starkman (LAS 2006) interned at the Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA) in Washington, DC. He then traveled to Tegucigalpa, where he worked for two different agencies of the Honduran

government and for an NGO called Asociación Hondureña de Productores de Energía Renovable (AHPEE) promoting renewable energy projects. He now works in the field of Wealth Management where he focuses on Latin American clients working first for an Israeli bank called Bank Hapoalim and now at a French bank, CA Indosuez.

Josiah Townsend (MALAS 2006) was awarded a 2019-20 Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award to spend the academic year conducting research and teaching at the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana Zamorano in Honduras.

Dina Liebowitz (TCD 2013) worked for a non-profit in the San Francisco Bay Area for five years, helping translate marine science into policy. She then returned to UF to pursue her passion in sustainable food systems. Dina is currently working as the Program Coordinator for UF/CALS Field & Fork Campus Food Program.

Brigitte Pfluger (MALAS 2016) worked in the Livestock Systems Innovation Lab at UF for three years as their Monitoring and Evaluation and Impact Specialist. In August 2019, she moved to Atlanta to begin her PhD in Human Nutrition and Health Sciences at Emory University.

2019 Latin American Studies Alumni Awards

Contributed by Patricia Alba (LAS)

The UF Center for Latin American Studies (LAS) created the LAS Alumni Awards in 2017 to recognize Center alumni whose achievements positively reflect the goals, principles, and philosophy of the Center. The Alumni Awards are composed of two categories the Outstanding Young Alumni Award and the Lifetime Achievement Alumni Award.

The Outstanding Young Alumni Award recognizes alumni who are 40 years of age or younger, and who possess an unmistakable tradition of achievement and a commitment to further strengthening the Latin American Studies field. The Lifetime

Achievement Alumni Award recognizes alumni whose achievements over the course of several years positively reflect the goals, principles, and philosophy of the Center. Award recipients are selected annually by the LAS Alumni Board and honored during the Fall Reception. This year's Fall Reception took place on November 8. During the festivities, Dr. Berthude Albert was awarded the Outstanding Young Alumni Award and Jorge Piñon was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Berthude Albert received her MA in Latin American Studies and her Ph.D. in Agricultural



Education and Communication from the University of Florida. She co-founded the nonprofit P4H Global, formerly known as Projects for Haiti. P4H Global is currently training Haitian teachers in 7 of Haiti's 10 departments

and by the end of 2019, they will be operating in all 10 of Haiti's departments.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the P4H team, over 5,000 teachers have been trained across Haiti. Albert has received numerous awards in recognition of her work, including being inducted into the UF Hall of Fame and an International Outreach Award, among others. This year, the University of Florida recognized Albert's work by selecting her as one of the top 40 UF graduates making an impact in the world. For her exemplary work and commitment to furthering the LAS field, it is an honor to award the Center's 2019 Outstanding Alumni Award to Dr. Berthude Albert.

Jorge Piñon received his BA in Economics and a Certificate in Latin American Studies from the University of Florida. Piñon's 32-year career in the energy industry began when he joined Shell Oil Company in 1975. He was appointed President and CEO of Transworld Oil USA in 1989 and President of Amoco Corporate Development Company Latin

America in 1991. In 1994, he served as president of Amoco Oil de México and president of Amoco Oil Latin America. In 1997, Piñon received the "Yiacatecutli" award for distinguished service in the promotion of U.S.-Mexico business relations.

Piñon is an expert on Cuba's energy sector. He has published extensively in energy industry magazines and publications. Throughout his career, Piñon has testified before various committees of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives. He has also spoken in front of the U.S. International Trade Commission on issues of Latin American energy policy and related geopolitical issues.

As part of his work, Piñon has presented several distinguished lectures at various institutions, include the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School. Piñon has also lent his expertise and knowledge to the Center for Latin American Studies, participating as an invited speaker on several occasions as part of the Latin American Business Symposium. Because of his important contributions to the economic development and international understanding of energy and geopolitical issues in Latin America, the Center is proud to present Jorge Piñon with the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award.



Alumni Spotlight: Irving X. Chan Gomez (MDP 2016)

Can you tell us about your current position and how it relates to Latin America?

I currently work with the Global Partnerships team at B Lab. As part of B Lab's approach to global growth and expansion, we partner with local mission-aligned organizations and/or entrepreneurs, due to their local context and in-market knowledge and expertise, to support the growth of the B Corp movement in their respective markets. As such, B Lab is a network of interdependent organizations from around the world building a global movement of people using

business as a force for good.

In my current role, I support the design, implementation, and evaluation of our global partner strategy. I am in close contact with our global partners to understand their strengths and needs and, by doing so, I can advise on improvement areas and ways to leverage and replicate local strengths globally.

Over the last few years, I have focused on our Latin

American operations (B Lab's first global partner) as a way to leverage lessons learned from the region into potential new models for our emerging partnerships in East Africa and across Asia; and to promote south-to-south collaboration.

With the coordination of our global network, I had the opportunity to develop and leverage our new platform, the SDG Action Manager. Developed by B Lab and the United Nations Global Compact, the SDG Action Manager is a web-based impact management solution to enable businesses to take action on the Sustainable Development Goals through 2030.

What motivated you to pursue a degree in Sustainable Development Practice?

Having graduated with a Biology degree and worked on projects around agriculture, soil microbiome, and hydroponic systems, I was interested in having a more holistic approach to understanding the different underlying connections between social, economic, geopolitical, cultural and historical structures that shape our perception of sustainable systems, not only in agriculture but more broadly.

UF's MDP program offered exactly that, a multidisciplinary, hands-on program that allowed me to better understand the different layers that truly sustainable development entails, not only from a perspective of multiple disciplines but also understanding the role that the public, nonprofit and private sectors play.

Needless to say, the recognition of UF's Center for Latin American Studies and the university's decades-long expertise in agricultural systems factored in my decision as well.

What aspect of your career have you enjoyed the most?

More and more, the outside world continues to shift the paradigm of the role of businesses in society - from the general public demanding better companies to work for to investors (even traditional ones like BlackRock) and major corporations (like

the Business Round Table) recognizing the need to move away from shareholder primacy. Being part of an organization that is leading these conversations all over the world has been not only enjoyable but inspiring.

In more technical ways, I have also enjoyed being able to work at the intersection of business and development at a global scale, and being able to use our Latin American partners as a model to shape our global strategy. It has been exciting to better understand the role (and responsibility) of businesses in issues around sustainable development and support the creation of a viable alternative that allows the private sector to meaningfully engage holistically and systemically, not just around high standards of performance and transparency, but also around accountability through stakeholder governance.



As we expand into new regions outside of the Western world, I am excited to see the potential and a viable pathway for south-to-south collaboration across our partners in Latin America, East Africa, and across Asia. Lastly, being able to support the development of the SDG Action Manager has also been one of the highlights of this year.

How did your degree and the Center help you prepare for your career?

The flexibility and willingness of all faculty and staff to support my many different interests and the areas of interest. The center and faculty were always willing to listen and provide advice and any support they could, within the center, campus and outside of it. Having access to all the resources that the center and the program offered, helped me narrow down my interests and choose an area of focus. And even when I expressed interest in the intersection of business and sustainable development, despite not being a core area of focus of the program, everyone encouraged me to pursue it and was willing to make connections to the business school and other departments that could help me explore further.

I think all of this prepared me for my current role and

career pathway, by teaching me to lead with curiosity and an open mind while remembering the different intersections that ought to be considered when seeking to promote systemic change in our economic system.

What would you most encourage students to take away from their experience at the Center for Latin American Studies?

I would encourage them to explore their interests. The center and campus have such broad areas of expertise that allow you to gain real insights into the different issues you may be interested in and start to map out connections and dependencies across them – whether it is a regional focus, or across disciplines. Also take advantage of the talks and presentations outside the classroom, even if they don't seem aligned with your interests. It was always a pleasure

to realize the high level of reasoning and thinking that faculty and my fellow peers put into their research and presentations, which always led me to learn something new and, in the best cases, questioning my assumptions.

Similarly, I would also encourage peers to try to apply what they're learning in real-time. Some of the classes I enjoyed the most had a practical component to it, either by design or simply by looking at ways to apply the knowledge of the class within local organizations, which not only enriched my experience but also contributed to the broader Gainesville community. All professors and the Center staff were always willing to explore pathways to help you leverage the different classes and programs to your areas of interest and experience.

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Gator Nation Giving Day is a fundraising event that calls on UF alumni, students, faculty, staff, families, and friends to come together to support UF and all of its areas of positive impact on our state, nation, and world.

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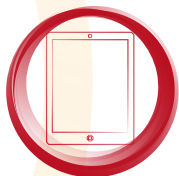
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